

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

I claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising: one or more isolated *mutans streptococci* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient, one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*.
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a carrier.
3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[24]] 1, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans ~~streptococcus~~ streptococci* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. rattus* strain JH145, *S. rattus* JH145 (*ldh*, *str*), *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downei*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*; wherein the one or more isolated *S. oralis* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. oralis* strain KJ3sm and *S. oralis* strain KJ3; and wherein the one or more isolated *S. uberis* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. uberis* strain KJ2sm and *S. uberis* strain KJ2.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[24]] 1, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans ~~streptococcus~~ streptococci* are naturally-occurring mutants that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) A food composition comprising: one or more isolated *mutans streptococci* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococci* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient, one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*.
10. (Currently Amended) The food composition of claim [[25]] 9, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans ~~streptococcus~~ streptococci* strains are selected from the group

consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downei*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*.

11. (Currently Amended) The food composition of claim [[25]] 9, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans streptococci* are naturally-occurring mutants that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) A dentifrice, oral rinse, chewing gum, lozenge, or topical agent composition comprising: one or more isolated *mutans streptococci* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococci* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient, one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*.
14. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[26]] 13, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans streptococci* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downei*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*.
15. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[26]] 13, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans-streptococci* strains are naturally-occurring mutants that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Original) A method for maintaining oral health of a subject comprising administering the composition of claim 1 to an oral cavity of a subject.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the subject is a mammal.
19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is administered to the subject about once a day, about once a week, or about once a month.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein maintaining oral health comprises the treatment, prevention or both treatment and prevention of periodontitis, dental caries, *Candida* or fungal overgrowth, halitosis, xerostomia-induced dental caries or periodontal disease, oral bacterial infections, oral bacterial disease, oral wounds or a combination thereof.
21. (Currently Amended) A method of non-persistently colonizing an oral cavity of a subject with therapeutically-effective bacteria comprising administering to the oral cavity of the subject a combination comprising: one or more isolated *mutans*

streptococci strains, wherein the mutans streptococci strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient, one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the combination is administered to the subject about once a day, about once a week, or about once a month.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the subject is a mammal.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining oral health of a subject comprising administering the composition of claim 1 ~~24~~ to an oral cavity of a subject.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein maintaining oral health comprises the treatment, prevention or both treatment and prevention of periodontitis, dental caries, *Candida* or fungal overgrowth, halitosis, xerostomia-induced dental caries or periodontal disease, oral bacterial infections, oral bacterial disease, oral wounds or a combination thereof.
30. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is administered to the subject about one time, two times or more times per day.
31. (New) A composition comprising: one or more isolated *mutans streptococci* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are non-pathogenic, one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*.